lonely planet language survival kit

Japanese phrasebook



Japanese Phrasebook
1st edition

Published by
Lonely Planet Publications
Head Office: PO Box 617, Hawthorn, Victoria 3122, Australia
US Office: PO Box 2001A, Berkeley, CA 94702, USA

Printed by
Colorcraft, Hong Kong

Published
December 1989

Editor	Chris Taylor
Design, cover design & illustrations	Ann Jeffree
Typesetting	Ann Jeffree

National Library of Australia Cataloguing in Publication Data

Chambers, Kevin.
Japanese Phrasebook.

ISBN 0 86442 067 6.

1. Japanese language - Conversation and phrase books - English. I. Palmer, Wesley. II. Title

495.6'83'421

Contents

Introduction

Virtually every citizen of Japan is an ethnic Japanese and speaks Japanese. A very ethnically homogeneous nation, the only minorities in Japan are about 600,000 Koreans and the few thousand Ainu of Hokkaido Island. Most of the Koreans were brought to Japan as slave labourers between 1910 and 1945 when Korea was a Japanese colony. The 'round-eyed' and bearded Ainu were the original inhabitants of Japan but were pushed into the far north by the Yamato people who we now think of as the Japanese. Today there are far more foreign businesspeople in Japan than there are Ainu.

Even the most arrogant of the first western visitors to Japan remarked upon the politeness of the Japanese. Although Japanese exclusiveness ('we Japanese versus outsiders') irks many foreigners, the Japanese remain extraordinarily polite toward visitors. The Japanese tend to be reserved but very friendly and helpful if you break the ice.

The Japanese language is a member of the Tungusic-Altaic language group which includes Mongolian and Korean. Japanese is structurally quite different from Chinese. However, since they didn't have a writing system of their own, the Japanese began using Chinese characters (*kanji*) between the 5th and 9th centuries. In the 9th century the Japanese devised a phonetic syllabary called *kana* to supplement the ideographic *kanji* with Japanese verb inflections and particles. To make matters even more complicated, two different *kana* syllabaries evolved: *hiragana* for writing native words and *katakana* for writing foreign words.

Although some Japanese tend to be suspicious of foreigners who speak their language too fluently, they greatly appreciate any effort by visitors to use their language. Many Japanese speak at least a little English and bewildered-looking foreigners will often be approached with an offer of help.

This book is designed to help you travel independently and to communicate your needs and ideas without offence. It is by no means a text for learning the complexities of Japanese grammar. Learning Japanese is, however, very rewarding and it is hoped that this book will whet the reader's appetite to learn more. For a humorous introduction to the Japanese language pick up a copy of Jack Seward's *Japanese in Action* (John Weatherhill Inc, New York and Tokyo, 1968).

Good luck in your travels. *Umaku iku yō ni!*



Pronunciation

It's fairly easy for English speakers to pronounce Japanese. There is also very little variance in stress. Equal weight is given to every syllable of a word unless it has a lengthened vowel sound, in which case the duration of the sound is doubled. Although pitch is important in Japanese, simply following the pronunciation guide will allow you to be understood.

Throughout this phrasebook you will find both Japanese script and the romanised (*romaji*) forms of writing used side-by-side. Although it takes some dedication to learn the 2000 *kanji* necessary to read most Japanese writing, learning the *kana* syllabaries (*hiragana* and *katakana*)is a useful task that can be done in a few days. Use the chart overleaf to memorise them.

Vowels

a	as 'a' in 'father'
i	as 'i' in 'macaroni'
u	as 'u' in 'flu'
e	as 'e' in 'get'
o	as 'o' in 'lot'

Vowels appearing in this book with a bar over them (*ā, ē, ī, ō, ū*) are pronounced long – about twice as long as regular vowels. This is a vital difference, as anyone who has confused *komon* (adviser) with *kōmon* (anus) can tell you.

The 'u' in the common polite verb *desu* (am, is, are) is muted and hardly pronounced at all.

KATAKANA

ア a	イ i	ウ u	エ e	オ o
カ ka	キ ki	ク ku	ケ ke	コ ko
サ sa	シ shi	ス su	セ se	ソ so
タ ta	チ chi	ツ tsu	テ te	ト to
ナ na	ニ ni	ヌ nu	ネ ne	ノ no
ハ ha	ヒ hi	フ fu	ヘ he	ホ ho
マ ma	ミ mi	ム mu	メ me	モ mo
ヤ ya		ユ yu		ヨ yo
ラ ra	リ ri	ル ru	レ re	ロ ro
ワ wa				ヲ o
ン n				

ガ ga	ギ gi	グ gu	ゲ ge	ゴ go
ザ za	ジ ji	ズ zu	ゼ ze	ゾ zo
ダ da	ヂ ji	ヅ zu	デ de	ド do
バ ba	ビ bi	ブ bu	ベ be	ボ bo
パ pa	ピ pi	プ pu	ペ pe	ポ po

HIRAGANA

あ a	い i	う u	え e	お o
か ka	き ki	く ku	け ke	こ ko
さ sa	し shi	す su	せ se	そ so
た ta	ち chi	つ tsu	て te	と to
な na	に ni	ぬ nu	ね ne	の no
は ha	ひ hi	ふ fu	へ he	ほ ho
ま ma	み mi	む mu	め me	も mo
や ya		ゆ yu		よ yo
ら ra	り ri	る ru	れ re	ろ ro
わ wa				を o
ん n				

が ga	ぎ gi	ぐ gu	げ ge	ご go
ざ za	じ ji	ず zu	ぜ ze	ぞ zo
だ da	ぢ ji	づ zu	で de	ど do
ば ba	び bi	ぶ bu	べ be	ぼ bo
ぱ pa	ぴ pi	ぷ pu	ぺ pe	ぽ po

Consonants

Consonants are pronounced the same as in English, with the following exceptions:

- **f** where 'f', sometimes romanised as 'h', appears in romanised Japanese it should be pronounced much lighter than in English – the easiest way to approximate this Japanese sound is to purse the lips and blow lightly
- **g** if a word starts with a 'g', it is given a hard sound as in 'goal'; In the middle of a word it is often nasalised as 'ng'
- **n** given a more nasal sound than in English when it occurs as a final consonant – otherwise like the 'n' in 'no'
- **r** pronounced with the tip of the tongue quickly touching the ridge just behind the upper front teeth; somewhere between an 'l' and an 'r'
- **s** always given a hard sound as in 'saw'

Double consonants are pronounced as separate syllables. *kissaten* (coffee shop), for example, is pronounced as kis-saten.

Grammar

Word Order

Unlike English, where the word order is subject-verb-object, the word order of a Japanese sentence is subject-object-verb. In other words, while in English we would say:

Who hit the ball?

a Japanese would say the equivalent of:

Who the ball hit?

In speech, unnecessary words are omitted from the sentence. The Japanese rely upon the listener to determine the meaning by context. Often the verb phrase is all there is to a sentence, leaving the listener to figure out who is being talked about.

Verbs

The verb is the most important part of the sentence. The Japanese penchant for omitting superfluous information often leaves the verb clause as the entire sentence. Verbs remain unchanged no matter how many people are being talked about. Thus *ikimasu* can mean: I go, you go, he (she, it) goes, we go, and they go.

Politeness

Japanese verbs take endings that express politeness. The addition of *masu* to a verb makes it both more polite and,

fortunately for the non-native speaker, easier to conjugate. *Masu* forms have been used throughout this book. For some examples of how they inflect, see the 'Tense' section.

Tense
Verbs only have the present and past tenses. The future tense is indicated by the present tense used in combination with time indicating adverbs such as 'next month'.

Here are some examples of how a few common verbs are conjugated:

verb	polite ending	past tense	negative
to go	go	went	doesn't go
iku	*ikimasu*	*ikimashita*	*ikimasen*
to come	come	came	doesn't come
kuru	*kimasu*	*kimashita*	*kimasen*
to drink	drink	drank	doesn't drink
nomu	*nomimasu*	*nomimashita*	*nomimasen*
to eat	eat	ate	doesn't eat
taberu	*tabemasu*	*tabemashita*	*tabemasen*
to have	have	had	doesn't have
aru	*arimasu*	*arimashita*	*arimasen*

Desu
We can think of *desu* as roughly equivalent to the verb 'to be' in English, eg:

I am Australian. — *watashi wa ōsutorariajin desu*

Negatives
To make most statements negative, replace *desu* (am, is, are) with *dewa arimasen*, sometimes, in informal Japanese, contracted to *ja arimasen*.

I am Australian.
watashi wa ōsutorariajin desu
I am not Australian.
watashi wa ōsutorariajin dewa arimasen

The *masu* ending, which is taken by all verbs other than *desu*, can be made negative by replacing the *su* ending with *sen*:

I speak Japanese.
watashi wa nihongo o hanashimasu
I don't speak Japanese.
watashi wa nihongo o hanashimasen

Adjectives
As in English, adjectives (and adverbs) precede the words they modify. Thus:

A cheap hotel. — *yasui hoteru*

Negative
In the negative, the *i* ending is replaced by *ku* and the verb *arimasen* added. Thus:

This hotel isn't cheap. — *kono hoteru wa yasuku arimasen*

Questions

A *ka* at the end of a sentence indicates a yes or no question. Simply add the particle *ka* after the verb. Thus:

This is a cheap hotel.	*kore wa yasui hoteru desu*
Is this a cheap hotel?	*kore wa yasui hoteru desu ka?*

For more specific questions the following question words are used:

who	who are you?
donata (polite)	*donata desu ka?*
dare (informal)	
which	which one is it?
dochira (polite)	*dochira desu ka?*
dore (informal)	
what	what are you doing?
*nan**	*nani o shite imasu ka?*
nani	
where	where is it?
doko	*doko desu ka?*
when	when are you going?
itsu	*itsu ikimasu ka?*
how	how is it? (what's it like?)
dō	*dō desu ka?*
How many	
ikutsu	
How much	how much is it?
ikura	*ikura desu ka?*
Why	
naze	

**nan* before b, p, d, t, n, r, z, and *nani* before others

Yes & No

The word for 'no' is *iie*. However, in most situations, a simple *iie* will sound brusque to the Japanese. Make your 'no' a little more polite:

I'm sorry, but no.	*iie, sumimasen*

To say 'yes', you can either say *hai* or *hai* followed by the verb in the question. You will also hear the less emphatic *ee*.

Are you Australian?	*anata wa ōsutorariajin desu ka?*
Yes, I'm Australian.	*hai, ōsutorariajin desu*

Pronouns

Personal pronouns aren't used as often in Japanese as in English. They are often omitted if they are obvious from the context. Also, although the word for 'I' is romanised as *watakushi*, you are more likely to hear and use the slightly less formal *watashi* when you are interacting with Japanese. Add the polite suffix *wa* to pronouns when talking about others. Note the Japanese have no word for 'it', and that the pronouns 'he' (*kare*) and 'she' (*kanojo*) are more often than not replaced by phrases meaning 'that person'.

When speaking of people the suffix *tachi* can be added to a pronoun to indicate plurality.

I, me	*watakushi*
you	*anata*
he, she (that person)	*ano hito*
we, us	*watakushitachi*
you (plural)	*anatatachi*
they (those persons)	*ano hitotachi*

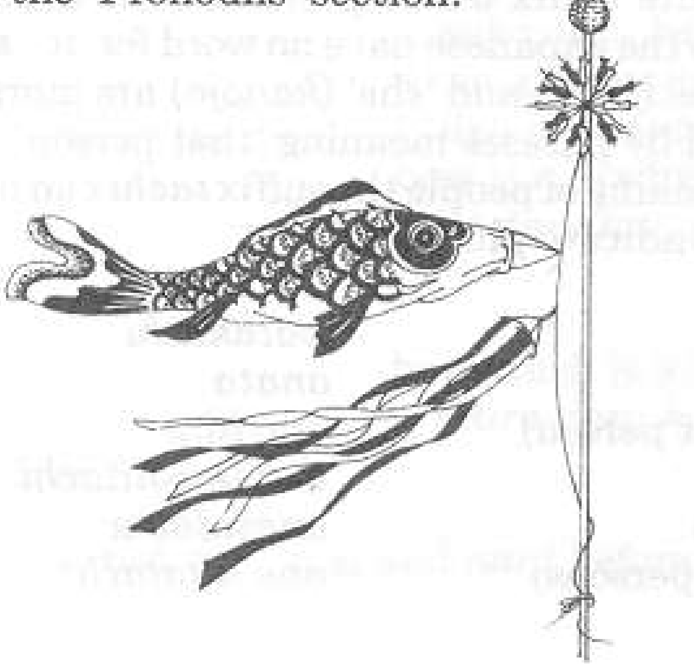
Demonstratives

Pronouns beginning with *ko* refer to 'this thing' or 'this place'; pronouns beginning with *so* refer to 'that thing' or 'that place' close to the person you are addressing; pronouns beginning with *a* refer to 'that place' or 'that thing' at a distance from both speaker and listener.

this/these	*kore*
that/those (close to you)	*sore*
that/those (far from you)	*are*
here	*koko*
there (close to you)	*soko*
there (far from you)	*asoko*

Nouns

Japanese nouns don't indicate number; *shokudō* can mean 'a restaurant', 'the restaurant', or 'restaurants'. The listener has to use context to guess how many restaurants are being talked about. The major exception is when speaking about people. See the 'Pronouns' section.



Place Words

These common place words are used after nouns to indicate relative location:

above	.... *no ue ni*
behind	.... *no ushiro ni*
beside	.... *no soba ni*
front	.... *no mae ni*
inside	.... *no naka ni*
outside	.... *no soto ni*
under	.... *no shita ni*
opposite	.... *no mukō ni*
inside the station	
inside the station	eki no naka ni
opposite the bank	*ginkō no mukō ni*

Particles

In Japanese, a number of particles attach themselves to words and phrases in order, basically, to indicate the relationship of the preceding word to the word or words that follow.

wa

The particle *wa* indicates that the preceding noun is the subject of the sentence:

I am an Australian. *watakushi wa ōsutorariajin desu*
I *wa* Australian am.

no

The particle *no*, placed between nouns, indicates that the second noun belongs to the first:

This is my luggage.	*kore wa watakushi no nimotsu desu* This *wa* I *no* luggage is.

o

A word followed by *o*, is the object of the sentence:

I speak Japanese.	*watakushi wa nihongo o hanashimasu* I *wa* Japanese *o* speak.

Note that this is different to the *o* used as a polite prefix, which is the equivalent of saying 'honourable ....' Don't add the *o* when speaking of your own situation.

How are you?	*o-genki desu ka?* *o* health is *ka?*

ni

The particle *ni* indicates location:

I live in Japan.	*nihon ni sunde imasu* Japan *ni* live.

de

The particle *de* indicates activity in a location:

I am travelling in Japan.	*nihon de ryokō shite imasu* Japan *de* travel doing am.

e

The particle *e* indicates movement towards a place:

I'm going to Japan.	*nihon e ikimasu* Japan *e* go.

kara

The particle *kara* indicates movement away from a place:

I'm going from Japan to China.	*nihon kara chukoku e ikimasu* Japan *kara* China *e* go.

Uh

You will no doubt often hear the words *ano* and *eto* during your stay in Japan. They are not actually words, but the Japanese equivalents of the English 'uh'.

Uh, I don't know.	*ano, wakarimasen*
Uh, excuse me.	*eto, sumimasen*



Greetings & Civilities

Forms of Address

The Japanese equivalent of 'Mr', 'Mrs', or 'Miss' is *san*. It's an all-purpose polite suffix that should be added on to the family name. A person whose family name is Watanabe should be addressed as *watanabe-san*. The title *sama* serves the same purpose as *san* but is more formal. Never refer to yourself or anyone in your immediate family as .... *san* as this address is reserved as a means of showing respect to others.

Most Japanese have a two-part name consisting of a family name and a given name. Traditionally, the family name precedes the given name in writing or speech, but, since many Japanese switch the order to accommodate foreigners, it is best to ask which is the family name if you are unsure. Do not address acquaintances by their given names.

Very important words in Japanese are *dōzo* (please) and *arigatō gozaimasu* (thank you) - use them liberally. *Dōzo* can be used in situations such as inviting someone to be seated or to enter a doorway before you. *Arigatō gozaimasu* can be shortened to *arigatō* and is often used in conjunction with *dōmo*.

Attracting Someone's Attention

If you need to attract someone's attention, the Japanese equivalent of 'excuse me' is *sumimasen*. Before approaching someone for assistance of any kind it is polite to preface your question with this expression. In shops it is possible to call for attention with *gomen kudasai*.

Greetings

There is no real all purpose word for 'hello' in Japanese. Rather the Japanese use a number of different expressions at different times of the day:

Good morning.
ohayō gozaimasu おはようございます
Good afternoon.
konnichiwa こんにちわ
Good evening.
konbanwa こんばんは
Hello (on the telephone)
moshi moshi もしもし

Welcome

An important greeting you will hear when you enter Japanese homes, shops, restaurants, even lifts is *irasshaimase* (welcome). There is no need to respond.

Meeting People

When meeting for the first time, the Japanese have a number of expressions which correspond roughly to the English expressions 'how do you do' and 'pleased to meet you'. The speaker accompanies his/her introduction with a bow.



How do you do.
hajimemashite dōzo yoroshiku はじめましてどうぞよろしく
How do you do. (reply)
hajimemashite kochira koso yoroshiku はじめましてこちらこそよろしく
Pleased to meet you.
yoroshiku onegaishimasu よろしくおねがいします

Japanese has a greeting that is the equivalent of 'how are you?', but it is used far less frequently than in English. As a general rule, you should only ask someone if you have not seen them for several days:

How are you?
ogenki desu ka? お元気ですか
How are you? (formal)
gokigen wa ikaga desu ka? 御機嫌はいかがですか
Fine, and you?
okagesamade, ... (name) san wa? おかげさまで…さんは

Goodbyes

Goodbye.
sayōnara さようなら
See you later/again.
ja mata じゃまた
Goodnight.
oyasumi nasai お休みなさい

If you have to break off a conversation or take your leave from company, the polite thing to say is:

Excuse me. (literally, 'I'm going to be rude')
shitsurei shimasu 失礼します
I have to go.
oitomashimasu おいとまします

Thanking People

Japanese has a number of ways of expressing gratitude, the simplest of which being *dōmo* (thanks). More polite is the expression *arigatō gozaimasu*. You will often here the two expressions piled on top of each other, *dōmo arigatō gozaimasu*.

Gifts

It is common for Japanese people to give gifts as an expression of gratitude for favours or when parting with friends. In formal situations the receiver often unwraps the gift when the giver has left.

Please accept this gift.
tsumaranai mono desu ga, dōzo つまらない物ですが，どうぞ
It's nothing special.
taishita mono dewa arimasen たいした物ではありません
Thankyou very much.
dōmo arigatō gozaimasu どうもありがとうございます

Other Civilities

I'm happy to meet you.
hajimemashite はじめまして

Please.
(when presenting something)
dōzo どうぞ

Please.
(when asking for something)
onegai shimasu おねがいします

No.
iie いいえ

Yes.
hai はい

You're welcome.
dō itashimashite どういたしまして

Excuse me.
sumimasen すみません

I'm sorry.
gomen nasai ごめんなさい

Do you understand?
wakarimasu ka? わかりますか

I don't understand.
wakarimasen わかりません

I understand.
wakarimasu わかります

Be careful.
ki o tsukete kudasai 気をつけて下さい

This is Mr, Mrs, Miss ....
kochira wa ....san desu こちらは...さんです

Small Talk

Outside cosmopolitan Tokyo, don't be surprised to be approached by college-aged Japanese or young *sararimen* (salarymen) wanting to strike up a conversation. Although most Japanese are reluctant to try out their English or risk an embarrassing situation with a foreigner, their desire to be helpful will often overcome their reserve.

One of the most effective icebreakers you can use to meet Japanese (and vice versa) is to ask them to take your picture in front of something, anything. Approach them with your camera, smile and say *sumimasen* (excuse me), and point at your camera and then at your nose (the way Japanese signify 'me'). This invariably results in much smiling, bowing, and exploratory chit-chat if you follow the picture taking with any of the following questions:

Are you a student?
anata wa gakusei desu ka? あなたは学生ですか

Where are you from?
dochira kara irashaimashita ka? どちらからいらしゃいましたか

Are you on holiday?
kyūka desuka? 休暇ですか

Have you been here before?
mae ni koko ni kita koto ga arimasu ka? 前にここに来たことがありますか

Foreigners are so common in Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto that you probably won't attract a second glance in these cities. Outside these major cities, however, you may turn a few heads. The Japanese word for foreigner, *gaijin*, may be murmured by passers-by, or screamed by surprised motorists.

If you wish to beckon to someone, gesture with the palm facing down and the fingers fluttering up and down – never beckon or point with one finger. It would be a faux pas of equal magnitude to address someone by their given name. Always use the person's family name, preceded by a title such as Mr, Mrs or Miss.


indicating self


beckoning

Family Terms

Modesty is a great virtue in Japan and is expressed not only by action but also by vocabulary. There are different words for what is yours and what is another's. Special respect words are used when speaking of another person's relatives.

father		
(one's own)	*chichi*	父
(others')	*otōsan*	お父さん

mother		
(one's own)	*haha*	母
(others')	*okāsan*	お母さん
husband		
(one's own)	*shujin*	主人
(others')	*goshujin*	ご主人
wife		
(one's own)	*tsuma*	妻
(others')	*okusan*	おくさん
friend	*otomodachi*	お友だち

About Yourself

Expect to be asked questions about your age, what company you work for, and how many children you have. Learn a few phrases that tell others about yourself. Incidentally, if an acquaintance you bump into says 'where are you going?' *dochira e?*, it's a common greeting and you aren't expected to give an explanation – a reply such as 'just down the street' is polite.

Meeting People

May I ask your name?	
o-namae wa nan desu ka?	お名前は何ですか
My name is	
namae wa .... desu	名前は…です
How old are you?	
o-ikutsu desu ka?	おいくつですか
(to children)	
nansai desu ka?	何歳ですか
(to adults)	
Please repeat that.	もう一度いって下さい
mō ichido itte kudasai	

Could you speak a little more slowly please?
motto yukkuri ni hanashite kudasaimasu ka? もっとゆっくりに話して下さいますか
Are you married?
kekkon shite imasu ka? 結婚していますか
Yes, I am.
ee, kekkon shite imasu ええ,結婚しています
No, I'm still single.
iie, mada dokushin desu いいえ,まだ独身です

Do you have any children?
okosan ga irasshaimasu ka? お子さんがいらしゃいますか

No.	*iie, imasen*	いいえ,いません
Yes.	*hai, imasu*	はい,います
one	*hitori imasu*	(一人)
two	*futari imasu*	(二人)
three	*sannin imasu*	(三人)

Occupations

What is your occupation?
o-shigoto wa nan desu ka? お仕事は何ですか
I'm a........
watakushi wa........ desu 私は...です
artist
geijutsuka 芸術家
businessperson
bijinesuman ビヅネスマン
carpenter
daiku 大工

doctor
isha 医者
hairdresser
biyōshi 美容師
journalist
jānarisuto ジヤーナリスト
lawyer
bengoshi 弁護士
police officer
keisatsukan 警察官
post office worker
yūbin haitatsujin 郵便配達人
secretary
hisho 秘書
student
gakusei 学生
teacher
kyōshi 教師
waiter
ueitā ウエイター
waitress
ueitoresu ウエートレス

Religion

I am........
watakushi wa........ desu 私は...です
Buddhist
bukkyo 仏教
Christian
kirisuto kyo キリスト教
Catholic
katoriku kyo カトリク教

Jewish
yudaya kyo ユダヤ教
Muslim
isuramu kyo イスラム教

Nationality

Where are you from?
doko kara kimashita ka? どこから来ましたか
Australia
ōsutoraria オーストラリア
Belgium
berugi ベルギ
Canada
kanada カナダ
Denmark
denmāku デンマーク
Germany
doitsu ドイツ
France
furansu フランス
Holland
oranda オランダ
Italy
itarī イタリー
India
indo インド
Ireland
airurando アイルランド
Japan
nihon 日本
New Zealand
nyūjirando ニューヅーランド

Soviet Union
soren ソ連
Sweden
suēden スウェーデン
Switzerland
suisu スイス
UK
igirisu イギリス
USA
amerika アナリカ

Feelings

I am ....
watakushi wa........ 私は…
tired
tsukaremashita 疲れました
happy
ureshii desu うれしいです
sad
kanashii desu かなしいです
sleepy
nemui desu 眠いです
scared
kowai desu こわいです
lost
michi ni mayoimashita 道に迷いました
sick
byōki desu 病気です

I am........
watakushi no........ 私の ...
hungry
onaka ga sukimashita おなかがすきました
thirsty
nodo ga kawakimashita のどがかわきました

Some Useful Phrases

Where are you going?
anata wa doko ni ikimasu ka? あなたはどこにいきますか
Do you speak English?
eigo o hanashimasu ka? 英語を話しますか
What did you say?
nani o oshaimashita ka? 何をおしゃいましたか
I don't know.
wakarimasen わかりません
No.
iie いいえ
Yes.
hai はい
What's the matter?
nanika mondai ga arimasu ka? 何か問題がありますか
Where is the restroom?
otearai wa doko desu ka? お手洗いはどこですか
What is this called?
kore wa nanto iimasu ka? これは何といいますか

Accommodation

Travellers have a choice between western-style hotels or Japanese inns as well as a wide range of prices. Count on finding English-speaking staff only at the larger and more expensive hotels and inns.

For a taste of travel Japanese style try a Japanese *ryokan* or a *minshuku*. The *ryokan* is the traditional up-market inn that westerners generally picture when they think of a Japanese house or inn. These are the inns with sliding doors, kimono-clad ladies, and reed mat (*tatami*) floors. The maid lays out your bed (*futon*) and brings meals to your room – delightful touches but ones for which you will pay dearly. Budget travellers go for the less elaborate family-operated *minshukus*. The service isn't as solicitous, and the food isn't as good as in a *ryokan* but the room rates are quite comfortable. Guests do not have a choice over the menu in either type of inn – accept what is served. A *minshuku* usually features a common dining area and a set mealtime. Since foreigners are sometimes turned away from both types of Japanese inns, it is best to make reservations through a tourist information office.

Hotel and inn bills include a service charge. Tipping is not necessary but is acceptable if extraordinary service has been provided.

Where is a ....?
........doko desu ka? ...どこですか
hotel
hoteru ホテル

inn		
ryokan	旅館	
youth hostel		
yūsu hosuteru	ユースホステル	

Watch out for hotels sporting garish architecture and pink or purple neon signs – these are 'love hotels' with hourly rates. If you arrive after 10 pm you can often get a low rate on a bizarrely decorated room for the night.

Checking In

Do you have ....?	
........*ga arimasu ka?*	…がありますか
a room	
heya	部屋
a single room	
shinguru rūmu	シングル　ルーム
a double room	
daburu rūmu	ダブル　ルーム
a room with a bath	
basu tsuki no heya	バス付きの部屋
How much per night?	一泊はいくらですか
ippaku wa ikura desu ka?	
I don't have a reservation.	
yoyaku shite imasen	予約していません
Don't you have anything cheaper?	
motto yasui no wa arimasen ka?	もっと安いのはありませんか
That's too expensive.	
sore wa taka sugiru desu ga	それは高すぎるですが

Could I see the room?	
heya o misete kudasaimasu ka?	部屋をみせて下さいますか
It's too small.	
chiisa sugimasu	小さすぎます
It's too noisy.	
urusa sugimasu	うるさすぎます
This is fine.	
kore wa ii desu	これはいいです
I'll be staying	
........*taizai shimasu*	…滞在します
one night	
hitoban	一晩
two nights	
futaban	二晩
three nights	
mikka	三日
a few nights	
ni san nichi	二三日
one week	
isshūkan	一週間
I'm not sure how long I'm staying.	
nan nichi tomaruka mada wakarimasen	何日とまるかまだわかりません
Where is the ....?	
.... *wa doko desu ka?*	…はどこですか
lift (elevator)	
erebētā	エレベーター

bathroom
otearai お手洗い
fan
senpūki せんぷうき
hotel
hoteru ホテル
inn
ryokan 旅館
lock
jomae 錠前
toilet
benjo 便所

I would like........
.... *ga hoshii no desu ga* …が欲しいのですが
blanket
mōfu 毛布
towel
taoru タオル
some ice
kōri 氷

May I have........?
.... *o itadakemasu ka?* …をいただけますか
tea
ocha お茶
a menu
menyū メニュー
breakfast
chōshoku 朝食
lunch
chūshoku 昼食

supper (dinner)
yūshoku 夕食
the bill
o-kanjō o o-negai shimasu お勘定をお願いします

Some Useful Words

air-conditioning
reibō 冷房
ashtray
haizara 灰皿
chair
isu 椅子
clean
kirei きれい
curtain
kāten カーテン
dirty
kitanai 汚い
door
to 戸
expensive
takai 高い
heating
danbō 煖房
hot water
oyu おゆ
key
kagi 鍵
laundry
sentaku 洗濯

light bulb
denkyū 電球
mirror
kagami 鏡
newspaper
shinbun 新聞
noisy
yakamashi やかましい
pillow
makura 枕
sleep (v)
nemuru 眠る
stay (v)
taizai suru 滞在する
soap
sekken せっけん
towel
taoru タオル

Checking Out

I'm checking out........
.... tachimasu ...たちます
now
ima 今
midday
hiru 昼
tomorrow
ashita 明日
tomorrow morning
asu no asa 明日の朝

Can I leave my stuff with you until........?
........made watashi no nimotsu o azukatte itedakemasu ka? ...まで私の荷物をあずかっていただけますか
this afternoon
gogo 午後
this evening
konban 今晩

Could I have the bill?
o kanjō o o-negai shimasu? お勘定をお願いします
Would you get me a taxi?
takushi o yonde kudasaimasu ka? タクシを呼んで下さい

At the Laundry

blouse
burausu ブラウス
button
botan ボタン
cleaned
kuriningu shita クリニングした
handkerchief
hankachīfu ハンカチーフ
ironed
airon shita アイロンした
pants
zubon ズボン
press (v)
puresu suru プレスする

pullover *puru ōbā*	プルオーバー
shirt *waishatsu*	ワイシヤツ
skirt *sukāto*	スカート
socks *kutsushita*	くつ下
underwear *shitagi*	したぎ
zipper *chakku*	チャツク

Some Useful Phrases

Is there a laundry nearby? *sentckuya wa chikaku ni arimasu ka?*	洗濯屋は近くに ありますか
I need it today. *kyō irimasu*	今日いります
I need it tommorrow. *ashita irimasu*	明日要ります
Can you mend this? *kore o tsukurotte itadakemasu ka?*	これをつくろっていただけますか
Please iron this. *airon o kakete kudasai*	アイロンをかけて下さい

Getting Around

Japan has one of the best public transportation systems in the world. You should have no need of a private car since taxis, buses, subways, and trains can quickly get you to any corner of the country. Getting around is easy if you can pronounce the name of your destination.

Taxis can be hailed anywhere, but are most easily found in front of hotels or at taxi stands. Watch out for the automatic doors on taxis. Stand back and let the driver open and close the door.

Finding a taxi out of one of the entertainment districts late at night will be difficult. Everyone is trying to find a taxi, and it may be necessary to hold up two or three fingers to indicate that you are willing to pay double or triple the metered fare. Otherwise, don't try to bargain for taxis (except for occasional long-distance taxi trips). Taxis are always metered.

Use the subways in Tokyo and Osaka; they're quicker and cheaper than the taxis. Obtain a subway route map with the stations written in both English and Japanese. If you get lost just look for a Japanese person who doesn't seem to be in a hurry (hard to find) and point to your destination on the map. Japanese are invariably very helpful to disoriented foreigners. Subway lines are colour coded and most stations have a route map with romanised names posted near the ticket vendors.

Subway tickets and short-distance train tickets are sold from ticket machines at the stations. Long-distance train tickets must be purchased at ticket windows. Unlike the

subways, train stations usually do not have a romanised version of the train system posted. Simply write down your destination and show it to the ticket seller. If you take one of the super-speedy bullet trains (*shinkansen*) be aware that there are two types: the *kodama* which makes frequent stops, and the *hikari* which zips past the lesser stations.

From town to town you can also go by bus. Buses are air-conditioned and comfortable, although leg-room may be a problem for tall passengers.

Where is the ....?
  .... *wa doko desu ka?* ...はどこですか
    train station
      eki 駅
    bus stop
      basu teiryujo バス停留所
    airport
      kūkō 空港
    ticket office
      kippu uriba 切符売場
    subway station
      chikatetsu no eki 地下鉄の駅

When is the .... bus?
  .... *basu wa itsu desu ka?* ...バスはいつですか
    first
      shihatsu 始発
    next
      tsugi no 次の
    last
      saishu 最終

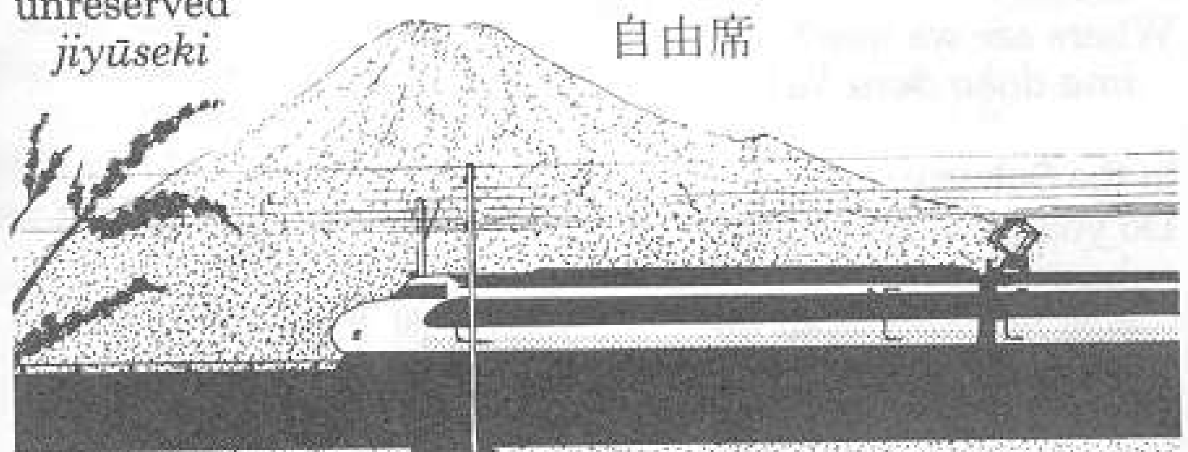
Trains

If you are travelling long distance by train there is quite a wide range of choices, depending on how fast and how comfortable you would like your trip to be. You will see the following kinds of train:

bullet train
  shinkansen 新幹線
limited express
  tokyū 特急
ordinary express
  kyūkō 急行
local trains
  futsū 普通

Local train fares represent a base to which additional amounts are added in keeping with the speed and comfort of the train you are travelling on.

first class
  gurinsha グリーン車
reserved
  shiteiseki 指定席
unreserved
  jiyūseki 自由席



Buying Tickets

Where can I buy a ticket to ....?
.... yuki no kippu wa doko de kaemasu ka? …行きの切符はどこで買えますか

How much is the fare to ....?
.... made ikura desu ka? …までいくらですか

Single.
katamichi 片道

Return.
ōfuku 往復

Can I buy a ticket on the day?
tōjitsuken wa arimasu ka? 当日券は,ありますか

On the Train

Does this train go to ....?
kono densha wa .... e ikimasu ka? この電車は…へ行きますか

Where do I change for ....?
.... e wa doko de norikaemasu ka? …へはどこで乗りかえますか

Is the next station ....?
tsugi no eki wa .... desu ka? 次の駅は…ですか

Where are we now?
ima doko desu ka? 今どこですか

In the Subway

Do you have an English subway map?
eigo no chikatetsu no chizu ga arimasu ka? 英語の地下鉄の地図がありますか

Which line do I take for ....?
.... ni iku ni wa nani sen ni nottara ii desu ka? …に行くには何線に乗ったらいいですか

Which exit do I need for ....?
.... e iku ni wa dono deguchi wa ii desu ka? …へ行くにはどの出口はいいですか

Where is the .... exit?
.... guchi wa doko desu ka? …口はどこですか

east
higashi 東

west
nishi 西

north
kita 北

south
minami 南

On the Bus

Where can I get a bus to ....?
.... yuki no basu wa doko de noremasu ka? …行きのバスはどこで乗れますか

How much is it to ....?
.... made ikura desu ka? …までいくらですか

Will you tell me when we get to ....?
.... ga kitara oshiete kudasaimasu ka? …が来たら教えて下さい

Instructions

Let's go!	
ikimasho!	いきましょう
Please hurry.	
hayaku itte kudasai	速くいって下さい
Please slow down.	
motto yukkuri ni itte kudasai	もっとゆっくりいって下さい
Please stop.	
tomatte kudasai	止って下さい
Please wait here.	
koko de matte kudasai	ここで待って下さい

Please go to	
.... *ni itte kudasai*	...にいって下さい
airport	
kūkō	空港
this address	
kono jūsho	この住所
the bank	
ginkō	銀行
the embassy	
taishikan	大使館
city hall	
shiyakusho	市役所
the market	
ichiba	市場
stadium	
kyōgijō	競技場
university	
daigaku	大学

Directions

go straight ahead	
massugu ni itte kudasai	まっすぐに行って下さい
north	
kita	北
south	
minami	南
east	
higashi	東
west	
nishi	西

Please turn	
.... *ni magatte kudasai*	...に曲って下さい
left	
hidari	左
right	
migi	右

Locations

above	
ue ni	上に
behind	
ushiro ni	後に
below	
shita ni	下に
here	
koko	ここ
next to	
tonari ni	となりに
opposite	
mukai ni	むかいに

over there
asoko あそこ
there
soko そこ

Some Useful Words

alley
yokochō 横町
bicycle
jitensha 自転車
car
jidōsha 自動車
conductor
shashō (san) 車掌（さん）
far
tōi 遠い
garage
shūrikōjō 修理工場
mechanic
shūrikō 修理工
map
chizu 地図
near
chikai 近い
petrol
gasu ガス
street
michi 道
subway
chikatetsu 地下鉄
taxi
takushi タクシ

timetable
jikokuhyō 時刻表
train
densha 電車

Some Useful Phrases

Can we go on foot?
aruite iku koto ga dekimasu ka? 歩いていく事ができますか
It's too far.
tō sugimasu 遠すぎます
I want to go to the hotel.
hoteru ni ikitai desu ホテルにいきたいです
I want to get off at ....
.... de oritai no desu …で降りたいのです
I want a ticket to .... please.
.... yuki made no kippu o ichimai kudasai …行きまでの切符を一枚下さい
Does this bus go to ....?
.... ni tomarimasu ka? …に止まりますか
Where is the rest room?
otearai wa doko desu ka? お手洗いはどこですか

Around Town

Addresses

Japan has traditionally used a district system of addresses. The hierarchy of districts starts with the largest, the ward (*ku*), and gets progressively smaller with *chō* (or *machi*) and *banchi*. Buildings within the districts are often numbered according to the order in which they were built, and not necessarily in sequential order along a street. The best way to locate an address is to have someone tell you which subway station is closest to your destination and then call for directions from that station. With the use of a map, some landmarks, and possibly a police box (*kōban*), you can find your destination. As an alternative, let a taxi driver worry about finding the place.

Where is the ....?
.... wa doko desu ka? …はどこですか

art gallery
garō 画廊

bank
ginkō 銀行

book store
honya 本屋

embassy
taishikan 大使館

hotel
hoteru ホテル

inn
ryokan 旅館

museum
hakubutsukan 博物館

post office
yūbin kyoku 郵便局

restaurant
shokudō 食堂

temple
tera 寺

At the Post Office

Many tourist hotels either offer a packing service or have a shop in their building which will pack your souvenirs for posting. Most of them also sell stamps and mail letters for you.

The symbol for post offices and postal services is a white and red T with a bar across the top. The mailboxes (*posuto*) are red, and in Tokyo the slot on the left-side is for mail destined for outside the city. Blue mailboxes are for special delivery mail.

I want ....
.... o kudasai …を下さい

a stamp
kitte 切手

an air letter
kōkū yūbin 航空郵便

a postcard
hagaki 葉書

I want to send it by ....
.... de okuritai no desu …で送りたいのです

airmail
kōkūbin 航空便

domestic mail *kokunai yūbin*	国内郵便
express delivery *sokutatsu*	速達
registered mail *kakitome*	書留
seamail *funabin*	船便

Some Useful Words

cable *denpō*	電報
express delivery *sokutatsu*	速達
letter *tegami*	手紙
number *bangō*	番号
letter box *yūbin bako*	郵便箱
parcel *kozutsumi*	小包
telephone *denwa*	電話

Some Useful Phrases

Where is the nearest post office? *moyori no yūbinkyoku wa doko desu ka?*	最寄の郵便局はどこですか
I want to send a cable. *denpō o uchitai no desu*	電報を打ちたいのです

I want to buy stamps, please. *kitte o kaitai no desu*	切手を買いたいのです
How much postage to ....? *........ muke no tegami wa ikura desu ka?*	...向の手紙はいくらですか
What window should I go to for stamps? *kitte wa dochira no mado de urimasu ka?*	切手はどちらの窓口で売りますか
I'd like to send this parcel. *kono kozutsumi o okuritai no desu ga*	この小包を送りたいのですが
How many days will it take by seamail? *funabin de nannichi gurai kakarimasu ka?*	船便で何日ぐらいかかりますか

At the Bank

The Japanese unit of currency is the yen, which is abbreviated as ¥. You'll usually get a better exchange rate at banks or credit card agencies than at hotels. Yen are easily converted outside Japan.

I want to change .... *........ o kaetai desu*	...を替えたいです
travellers' cheques *toraberāzu chekku*	トラベラーズチェック
cash *genkin*	現金

Some Useful Words

coins	
kozeni	小銭
bank notes	
ginkō tegata	銀行手形
bank draft	
ginkō kawase tegata	銀行為替手形
branch	
shibu	支部
commission	
tesūryō	手数料
credit card	
kurejitto kādo	クレジットカード
signature	
shomei	署名
identification card	
mibun shōmeisho	身分証明書
bank	
ginkō	銀行
money	
o-kane	お金
letter of credit	
shin-yōjō	信用状

If you wish to avoid the risk of currency exchange rate fluctuations you can obtain yen-denominated travellers' cheques at many banks before your departure for Japan.

Some Useful Phrases

Where is the nearest bank?	
moyori no ginkō wa doko desu ka?	最寄りの銀行はどこですか

Where can I cash a travellers' cheque?	
doko de toraberazu chekku o genkin ni kaeru koto ga dekimasu ka?	どこでトラベラーズチェックを現金に替る事ができますか
What is the exchange rate?	
kōkan rēto wa ikura desu ka?	交換レートはいくらですか
What time does it open?	
nanji ni akimasu ka?	何時に開きますか
I want to cash a cheque.	
ginkō kogitte o genkin ni kaetai desu	銀行小切手を現金に替たいです

Things to See & Do

I'd like to see	
.... *ga mitain desu*	…が見たいんです
Buddhist temple	
tera	寺
Imperial Palace	
kōkyo	皇居
Japanese garden	
nihon teien	日本庭園
kabuki	
kabuki	歌舞伎
noh	
nō	能
pagoda	
tō	塔
sumo wrestling	
sumo	相撲

tea ceremony
cha no yu 茶の湯
teahouse
chashitsu 茶室
Zen temple
zendera 禅寺

Tickets

Where can I buy tickets?
kippu wa doko de kaemasu ka? 切符はどこで買えますか
How much are the tickets?
kippu wa ikura desu ka? 切符はいくらですか

I'd like to reserve seats for ....
.... seki yoyaku shitai desu ...席を予約したいです
this evening's show
konban no shō 今晩のショー
matinée
hiru no shō 昼のショー
tomorrow evening's show
ashita no ban no shō 明日の晩のショー

Nightlife

If you are on a low budget, be very wary of entering nice 'cosy' bars, or expensive looking nightclubs. Prices can be astronomical. It is always a good idea to establish prices before entering and being landed with a $50 glass of beer. As a general rule of thumb, it is safer to avoid bars with *hosutesu* (hostesses).

Does this nightclub have a cover charge?
kono naito karabu wa kāba chiajī ga arimasu ka? このナイトクラブはカーバチヤジーがありますか
How much is it for one person?
hitori atari ikura kakarimasu ka? 一人当たりいくらかかりますか
Does it have hostesses?
hosutesu ga imasu ka? ホステスがいますか
How much is a bottle of beer?
bīru ippon ikura deshōka? ビル一本いくらでしようか

Some Useful Words

bar
bā バー
cabaret
kabarei キャバレイ
cigarettes
tabako タバコ
cinema
eigakan 映画館
disco
deisko ディスコ
jazz
jiazu ジャズ

Emergencies

Japan is one of the safest places in the world. You are generally safe walking alone at night – even on darkened streets. Foreigners are rarely victims of crime. Do, however, beware of Japanese Yakuza-types (organised crime) in some bars, especially in the Kabukicho area of Tokyo's Shinjuku ward.

Help me!
tasukete! たすけて

Watch out!
ki o tsukete! 気をつけて

Thief!
dorobō! 泥棒

Call the police!
keisatsu o yonde kudasai! 警察を呼んで下さい

Call a doctor!
isha o yonde kudasai! 医者を呼んで下さい

In the Country

Is it far to the ....?
.... *wa tōi desu ka?* ...は遠いですか

Can we walk to the ....?
.... *made aruite ikemasu ka?* ...まで歩いて行けますか

beach
hama 浜

cave
dōkutsu 洞窟

harbour
minato 港

hot springs
onsen 温泉

island
shima 島

lake
mizumi 湖

mountain
yama 山

river
kawa 川

road
michi 道

sea
umi 海

teahouse
chashitsu 茶室

temple
otera お寺
valley
tani 谷
waterfall
taki 滝

Is there a .... in this area?
kono hen ni wa .... ga arimasu ka? この辺には …がありますか
guest house
ryokan 旅館
hotel
hoteru ホテル
park
kōen 公園
restaurant
resutoran レストラン
youth hostel
yūsu hosuteru ユースホステル
village
mura 村

Animals



animal
dōbutsu 動物
bird
tori 鳥
cat
neko 猫
chicken
niwatori にわとり

cow
ushi 牛
crab
kani かに
dog
inu 犬
fish
sakana 魚
frog
kaeru 蛙
goat
yagi やぎ
horse
uma 馬
rabbit
usagi うさぎ
rat
nezumi ねずみ

Weather

cloud
kumo 雲
fog
kiri 霧
rain
ame 雨
sun
taiyō 太陽
snow
yuki 雪
wind
kaze 風

Some Useful Phrases

How is the weather?
tenki wa dō desu ka? 天気はどうですか
It's very cold today.
kyō wa samui desu 今日は寒いです
It's a very hot day!
totemo atsui deshō! とても暑いでしょう
Are those cherry blossoms?
are wa sakura desu ka? あれは桜ですか
When do the cherry blossoms bloom?
sakura wa itsu sakimasu ka? 桜はいつ咲きますか
Can I see Mt Fuji from here?
koko kara fuji san mieru deshōka? ここから富士山が見えるでしょうか
Is it possible to climb Mt Fuji now?
ima fuji san ni noboremasu ka? 今富士山に登れますか

Place Names

Islands

hokkaidō 北海道 | *honshū* 本州
shikoku 四国 | *kyūshū* 九州
ryūkyū 琉球列島

Main Cities

tōkyō 東京 | *ōsaka* 大阪

kyōto 京都 | *kōbe* 神戸
nagoya 名古屋 | *yokohama* 横浜
hiroshima 広島 | *fukuoka* 福岡
nagasaki 長崎 | *tokushima* 徳島
sendai 仙台 | *aomori* 青森
hakodate 函館 | *sapporo* 札幌

Cities around Tokyo

chiba 千葉 | *maebashi* 前橋
mito 水戸 | *urawa* 浦和
utsunomiya 宇都宮 | *yokohama* 横浜

Cities around Ōsaka

kōbe 神戸 | *kyōto* 京都
nara 奈良 | *ōtsu* 大津
tsu 津 | *wakayama* 和歌山

Cities around Tokushima

kōchi 高知 | *matsuyama* 松山
takamatsu 高松

Cities around Fukuoka

kagoshima 鹿児島
kumamoto 熊本
miyazaki 宮崎
nagasaki 長崎
oita 大分
saga 佐賀

Cities around Nagoya

fukui 福井
gifu 岐阜
kanazawa 金沢
kofu 甲府
nagano 長野
shizuoka 静岡
toyama 富山

Cities around Hiroshima

matsue 松江
okayama 岡山
tottori 鳥取
yamaguchi 山口

Cities around Sendai and Aomori

akita 秋田
fukushima 福島
morioka 森岡
niigata 新潟
yamagata 山形

Food

Japan's cities have restaurants specialising in everything from poisonous fish to American pizza. Still, Japanese and Chinese rice and noodle dishes are the norm. Many 'Japanised' western foods such as the ubiquitous 'mixed sandwich' (sorry, no substitutions) are available.

Many inexpensive traditional restaurants display a short, slitted curtain, or *noren*, over the doorway to announce to passers-by that they are open and ready to receive customers. If the *noren* is tucked inside or rolled-up, the restaurant is closed.

A taste of Japan requires a visit to a *soba-ya*, or noodle shop. *Sararimen* (businessmen) and *OL's* (office ladies) rush into these eateries at lunch time and slurp hot or cold noodles and soup before rushing back to work. The most popular seems to be the square brownish buckwheat noodles that are called *soba* (*o-soba* by women). Round yellow Chinese noodles are also popular. It's acceptable to slurp noodles.

Beware of restaurants that look like private homes. These *ryoriya* can be phenomenally expensive, but can provide you with a look at traditional high-class dining. Diners don't have a choice of foods – you must accept whatever the specialty of the day is.

Using *kudasai* is a polite way to ask for things, and can be translated as 'please give me'. 'Please' and 'thank you' are always in order in Japan. If you are the guest at a meal, say *itadakimasu* (I will partake) before starting to eat.

Even without a guidebook you can enjoy the many

inexpensive restaurants as they generally have realistic-looking models of the dishes available in the front window. Each model displays the name of the dish and its price. All you have to do is point at the dish you want.

Mealtimes

breakfast
chōshoku 朝食

lunch
chūshoku 昼食

dinner
yūshoku 夕食

Drinks

Try the many *kissaten* (coffee shops) if you like to sip coffee or soda while reading or talking. Although drinks aren't cheap, you can sit for as long as you want without being expected to order more.

When out drinking, wait until everyone's glass is full before starting to drink. The word *kampai* (cheers!) is heard often and literally means 'dry cup'. It is bad form to fill your own glass.

water
nomi mizu のみ水

milk
miruku ミルク

barley tea
mugicha 麦茶

green tea
ryokucha 緑茶

black tea
kōcha 紅茶

coffee
kōhī コーヒー

iced coffee
aisu kōhī アイスコーヒー

iced tea
aisu tī アイスティー

cola
kōra コーラ

juice
jūsu ジュース

fruit juice
furūtsu jūsu フルーツジュース

mineral water
mineraru uōtā ミネラルウォーター

beer
bīru ビール

draft beer
nama bīru 生ビール

rice wine
sake 酒

whisky
uisukī ウイスキー

wine
budōshu ぶどう酒

Fruit

I'd like a/some .... please.
.... *o kudasai* …を下さい

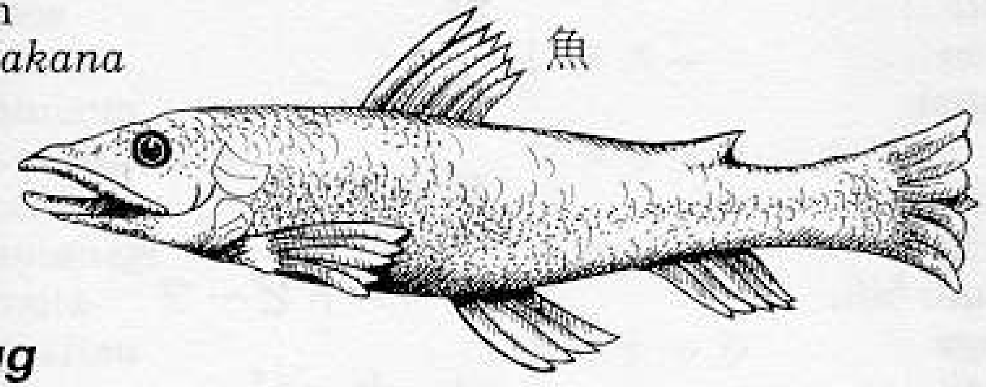
fruit
kudamono 果物

apple
ringo りんご
cherry
sakuranbo 桜んぼ
chestnuts
kuri くり
gooseberries
suguri すぐり
grapes
budō 葡萄
lemon
remon レモン
orange
orenji オレンジ
peach
momo もも
persimmon
kaki かき
pear
nashi なし
strawberries
ichigo 苺
dried fruit
hoshita kudamono ほした果物

Seafood

clam
hamaguri はまぐり
crab
kani かに
eel
unagi うなぎ

lobster
ise-ebi 伊勢エビ
oyster
kaki カキ
prawn
kurumaebi 車エビ
salmon
sake さけ
seafood
gyokairui 海介類
shrimp
ko-ebi 小エビ
fish
sakana 魚



Egg

egg
tamago たまご
fried egg
tamago furai たまごフライ
hard-boiled egg
katayude tamago 固ゆでたまご
poached egg
otoshi tamago おとしたまご
scrambled egg
kaki tamago かきたまご
soft-boiled egg
hanjuku tamago 半じゅくたまご

Meat

beef
gyūniku 牛肉

chicken
tori とり

ham
hamu ハム

hamburger
hanbāgā ハンバーガー

liver
kanzō 肝臓

meat
niku 肉

mutton
maton マトン

pork
butaniku 豚肉

roast beef
rōsuto bifu ローストビーフ

sausage
sōsēji ソーセージ

steak
sutēki ステーキ

stew
shichū niku シチュー肉

Vegetables

beans
mame まめ

bean sprouts
moyashi もやし

cabbage
kyabetsu キャベツ

carrot
ninjin にんじん

corn
tōmorokoshi ともろこし

cucumber
kyūri きゆうり

garlic
ninniku にんにく

green onion
asatsuki あさつき

lettuce
retasū レタスー

mushroom
masshurūmu マッシュルーム

onion
tamanegi 玉ねぎ

peanuts
pīnattsu ピーナッシ

peas
mame まめ

potato
jagaimo じやがいも

radishes
radisshu ラディシュ

red pepper
momijiroshi もみじろし

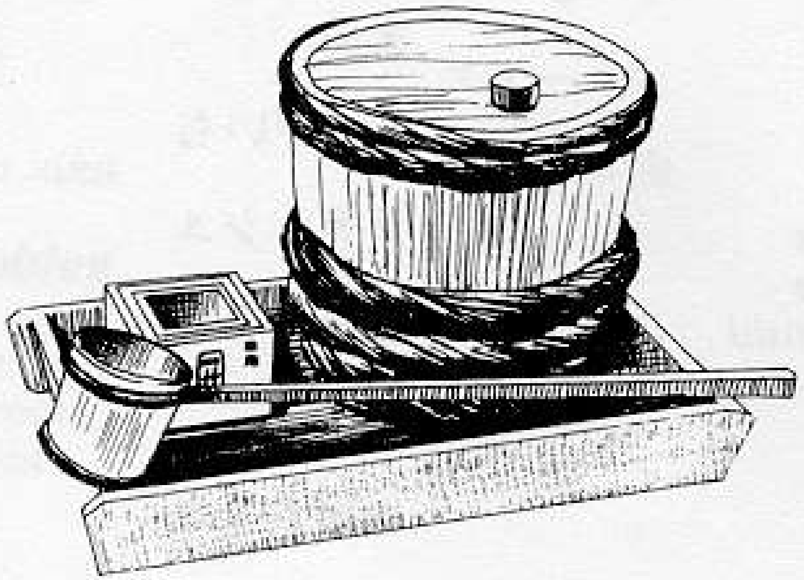
salad
sarada サラダ

spinach
hōrensō ほうれん草

tomato
tomato トマト
white radish
daikon 大根

Soups
soup
sūpu スープ
chicken soup
chikin sūpu チキンスープ
pea soup
mame sūpu まめスープ
vegetable soup
yasai sūpu 野菜スープ

Seasonings
black pepper
koshō 胡椒
garlic
ninniku にんにく



ketchup
kechappu ケチャップ
mustard
karashi からし
salt
shio 盐
soy sauce
shōyu しょう油
sugar
satō 砂糖
vinegar
su 酢

Grains
bread
pan パン
noodles
soba (thin) そば
udon (thick) うどん
rolls
rōru pan ロールパン
rice
gohan ごはん

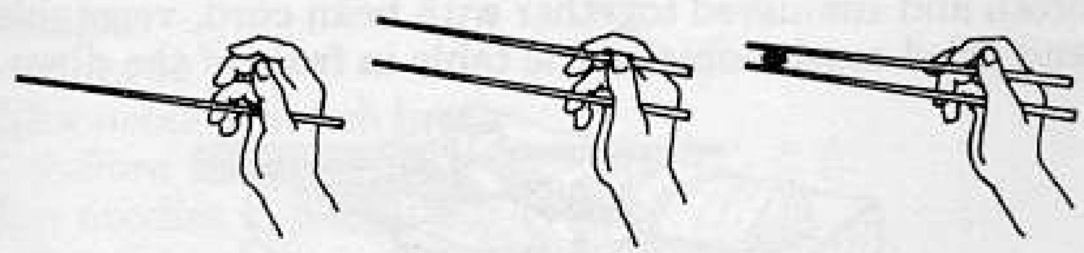
Miscellaneous Food
bean curd
tōfu 豆腐
butter
batā バター
cake
kēki ケーキ

dumplings	
gyoza	餃子
honey	
hachimitsu	蜂蜜
ice cream	
aisu kurīmu	アイスクリーム
toast	
tōsuto	トースト

Some Useful Words

baked	
tenpi de yaita	天火で焼いた
boiled	
yudetanita	ゆでた煮た
braised	
torobi de nita	とろ火で煮た
broiled	
kogashita	こがした
chopped	
kitta	切った
fried	
abura de ageta	油で揚げた
rare	
nama yaki	生焼き
medium	
futsū	普通
well-done	
yoku yaku	良く焼く
raw	
nama	生
ripe	
juku shita	熟した

delicious	
oishii	おいしい
sweet	
amai	あまい
sour	
suppai	すっぱい
bitter	
nigai	にがい
cold	
tsumetai	冷い
hot (taste)	
karai	辛い
hot (temperature)	
atsui	暑い
fresh	
shinsen	新鮮
empty	
kara	空
full	
ippai	一杯
vegetarian meal	
saishoku ryōri	菜食料理



Holding Chopsticks

Japanese Food

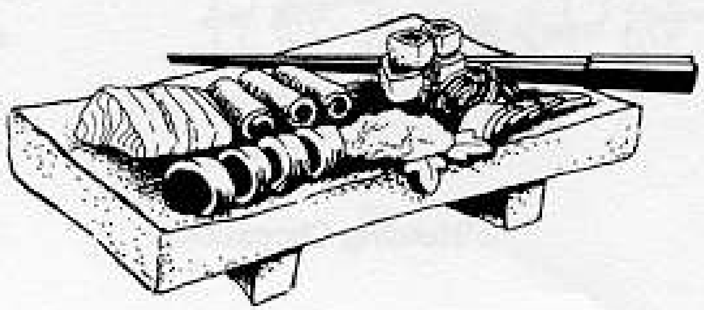
There are a great number of different kinds of eating places in Japan. Among the kinds you are most likely to encounter are *kissaten* (coffee shops), where cakes and other snacks are often available; *resutoran* (restaurants), which specialise either in western, Japanese, or Japanese interpretations of western food; *ryōriya*, which serve only Japanese food; and, on the streets, you will come across *yatai* (street stalls on wheels) selling hot sweet potatoes, noodles and other reasonably priced light meals.

Popular Dishes

sushi & sashimi すしとさしみ
Perhaps the most famous of Japanese dishes, sushi and sashimi are often confused by westerners. Sushi is lightly vinegared rice topped with a little *wasabi* (horse radish) raw seafood or egg. Sashimi, on the other hand, is thinly sliced raw fish served with, among other things, soya sauce, *wasabi*, and thinly sliced ginger.

tenpura 天ぷら
Originally introduced by the Portuguese, seafood and vegetables are dipped in an egg and flour batter and deep-fried.

sukiyaki すき焼き
Thin slices of beef are dipped into a sweetened soy sauce broth and simmered together with bean curd, vegetables and dried mushrooms on the table in front of the diner.



shabu shabu しゃぶしゃぶ
The diner places thin slices of beef and vegetables into a thin, simmering broth.

rāmen ラーメン
Chinese noodles adapted to the Japanese palate, *rāmen* is always a good, low budget meal for the traveller.

yakitori 焼き鳥
Barbecued chicken on skewers, this snack, and others like it, are often available as a popular accompaniment to drinks in bars.

teishoku 定食
This is not a dish, rather a common practice whereby restaurants offer dishes from their menu at a special lunch time price.

globe fish 河豚
Also known as *fugu*, restaurants serve this poisonous fish to the many aficionados in Japan who get a thrill out of taking small risks. Although prepared by certified cooks, people do occasionally die from improperly prepared *fugu*.

Noodle Dishes

noodles *o-udon*	おうどん
tea-flavoured buckwheat noodles *cha soba*	茶そば
thick noodles in fish broth *chikara udon*	ちからうどん
thin noodles in pork broth *gomoku soba*	ごもくそば

thick noodles in curry soup
karē nanban カレーなんばん
miso flavoured thin noodles
miso rāmen みそラーメン

Rice Dishes

rice
gohan ごはん
bowl of rice
gohan ichizen ごはん一ぜん
fried rice with pork or shrimp
chā han チヤーハン
beef and gravy over rice
hayashi raisu 林ライス
curried rice
karē raisu カレーライス
omelette rice
omuraisu オムライス
rice steamed in fish bouillon
kamameshi かまめし



Some Useful Phrases

I'd like a table for two.
futari yō no tēburu o onegaishimasu 二人用のテーブルをお願いします
Do you have an English menu?
eigo no mēnū wa arimasu ka? 英語のメニューはありますか
I'm vegetarian.
watashi wa saishoku shugisha desu 私は菜食主義者です
Do you have any vegetarian meals?
saishoku shugi sha yō no riyōri wa arimasu ka? 菜食主義者用の料理はありますか
Western-style food.
yōfū no riyōri 洋風の料理
Japanese-style food.
wafū no riyōri 和風の料理
What do you recommend?
o-susume ryōri wa nan desu ka? お勧め料理は何ですか
What's the price of the fixed menu?
teishoku wa ikura desu ka? 定食はいくらですか
The food is cold.
ryōri wa samete imasu 料理はさめています
I've had enough, thank you.
kore de mo kekko desu これでも結構です
Please bring the bill.
o-kanjō o o-negai shimasu お勘定をお願いします

Is service included?
sābisuryō wa fukumarete imasu ka? — サービス料は含まれていますか

Please reserve a table.
tēburu o yoyaku shite kudasai — テーブルを予約して下さい

What's the name of this restaurant?
kono shokudō no namae wa nan desu ka? — この食堂の名前は何ですか

Where is your rest room?
toire wa doko desu ka? — トイレはどこですか

Do you have ....?
.... *o motte imasu ka?* — …をもっていますか

(Please) bring ....
.... *o kudasai* — …を下さい

- the menu
  menyū — メニュー
- a plate
  sara — 皿
- a glass
  gurasu — ダラス
- a bottle
  ippon — 一本
- a knife
  naifu — ナイフ
- a fork
  fōku — フォーク
- a spoon
  supūn — スプーン

- a cup
  koppu — コップ
- the bill
  o kanjō — お勘定

For a complete handbook on the many types of Japanese restaurants and foods pick up a copy of Kimiko Nagasawa & Camy Condon's *Eating Cheap in Japan* (Shufunotomo Co, Ltd 1984).

Shopping

The Akihabara area of Tokyo is renowned for its discount electronics, but many will find the discount prices here comparable to prices back home. Don't forget that electric and video standards vary from country to country – tell the salesclerk which country you intend to use the product in.

Bargain hunters should check out the area across the street from Ueno train and subway station in Tokyo. The small lanes are filled with discount shoes, clothing, and household items.

When you enter a shop, the owner, clerk, or electronic door will say *irrashaimase* which means 'welcome'. If you want to just look around but an eager salesclerk is hovering over you, say *kekko desu* (that's all right) to take the pressure off.

Bargaining

With the exception of some shops in Akihabara, and some discount markets, such as the one in Ueno, prices are generally fixed; any attempt to haggle is more likely to produce embarrassment than a bargain.

How much is this?
kore wa ikura desu ka? これはいくらですか
It's too expensive.
taka sugimasu 高すぎます
I'll take this.
kore o itadakimasu これをいただきます
How much is it altogether?
zenbu de ikura desu ka? 全部でいくらですか

I don't want to spend more than .... yen.
.... yen ijō wa tsukaitaku nain desu ga ...円以上は使いたくないんですが
Will you deliver it?
todokemasu ka? 届けますか
I like this one.
kore ga hoshii no desu これが欲いのです
I want something cheaper.
motto yasui no ga hoshii desu もっと安いのが欲いです

Shopping

Where is the ....?
.... wa doko desu ka? ...はどこですか

barber's shop
tokoya 床屋
book shop
honya 本屋
camera shop
kameraya カメラ屋
department store
depāto デパート
dressmaker's shop
yōfukuya 洋服屋
electrical shop
denkiten 電気店
handicraft shop
shukōgeihinten 手工芸品店
jeweller's shop
hōsekiten 宝石店

market		
	ichiba	市場
pharmacy		
	yakkyoku	薬局
shoe shop		
	kutsuya	靴屋
shop		
	mise	店
souvenir shop		
	miyagemonoya	みやげ物屋
supermarket		
	sūpāmāketto	スーパーマークット
toy shop		
	omochaya	おもちゃ屋
tailor		
	yōfukuya	洋服屋

I want to buy		
	.... ga hoshii desu	…が欲しいです
antiques		
	kottōhin	骨董品
battery		
	denchi	電池
camera		
	kamera	カメラ
cassette player		
	kasseto pureya	カッセトプレイヤー
clothes		
	fuku	服
gems		
	hōseki	宝石

gold		
	kin	金
pearls		
	shinju	真珠
razor blades		
	kamisori no ha	かみそりの刀
shampoo		
	shanpū	シャンプー
shoes		
	kutsu	靴
silver		
	gin	銀
tampons		
	tanpon	タンポン

Do you have any ....?		
	.... ga arimasu ka?	…がありますか
cigarettes		
	tabako	タバコ
handbag		
	handobaggu	ハンドバッグ
hat		
	bōshi	帽子
jade		
	hisui	翡翠
paintings		
	kaiga	絵画
radio		
	rajio	テジオ
silk		
	kinu	絹

string
himo ひも
thread
ito 糸
toilet paper
toiretto pēpā トイレットペーパー
tooth paste
hamigaki 歯みがき
umbrella
kasa かさ

At the Camera Shop

I'd like some film for this camera.
kono kamera yō no fuirumu ga hoshii desu このカメラ用のフイルムが欲しいです
colour film
kalā fuirumu カラーフイルム
colour slide film
sulaido fuirumu スライドフィルム
black and white film
shiro kuro fuirumu 白黒フィルム
fast
hai supīdo ハイスピード
When will it be ready?
itsu dekiagarimasu ka? いつできあがりますか

Some Useful Words

another
betsu no 別の
bad
warui わるい

beautiful
kirei きれい
big
ōkii 大きい
cheap
yasui 安い
clean
kirei きれい
dark
kurai 暗い
develop
genzō suru 現像する
dirty
kitanai きたない
expensive
takai 高い
good
ii いい
heavy
omoi 重い
a little
sukoshi 少し
long
nagai 長い
many, much
takusan 沢山
receipt
ryōshūsho 領収書
round
marui まるい
shopping
kaimono 買物

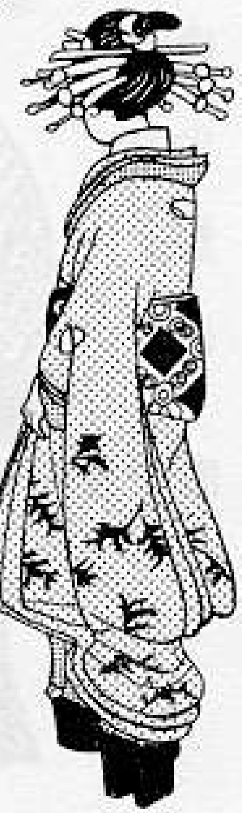
short
mijikai 短い
small
chiisai 小さい
square
shikakui 四角い
useful
benri 便利

Stationery

dictionary
jiten 辞典
envelope
fūtō 封筒
information
annai 案内
magazine
zasshi 雑誌
map
chizu 地図
newspaper
shinbun 新聞
paper
kami 紙
pen
pen ペン
pencil
enpitsu 鉛筆
writing paper
binsen 便箋

Clothes

I'd like ....
.... *ga hoshii desu* …が欲しいです
gloves
tebukuro 手袋
jacket
jaketto ジャケット
kimono
kimono 着物
raincoat
reinkōto レインコート
shirt
waishatsu ワイシャツ
shorts
shōto pantsu ショートパンツ
socks
kutsushita 靴下
sweater
sētā セーター
swimsuit
mizugi 水着
T shirt
tīshatsu Tシャツ



I'd like one like this.
kono yōna no ga hoshii desu この様なのが欲しいです
I take size ....
(see 'Numbers')
saizu wa .... desu サイズは...です
Can I try it on?
kore o tameshite ii desu ka? これを試していいですか
It fits well.
totemo yoku niaimasu とてもよく似合います

It's too ....
.... sugimasu ...すぎます
big
ōki 大き
long
naga 長
loose
yuru ゆる
small
chiisa 小さ
short
mijika 短
tight
kitsu きつ

Can you alter it?
naosemasu ka? 直せますか



Colours

Do you have any .... ones?
.... no wa arimasu ka? …のはありますか
black
kuroi 黒い
blue
aoi 青い
brown
chairo 茶色
green
midori iro 綠色
grey
fuji iro 灰色
pink
pinku ピンク
purple
murasaki iro 紫色
red
akai 赤い
white
shiroi 白い
yellow
ki iro 黄色

Quantities

bottle
ippon 一本
gram
guramu グラム
kilogram
kiro キロ

large
okii 大きい
less
motto sukunai もっと少ない
more
motto もっと
packet
pakku パック
pound
pondo ポンド
small
chiisai 小さい
tin
kanzume 缶詰

Some Useful Phrases

I'm just looking.
miru dake desu 見るだけです
Could you help me?
o negai shimasu お願いします
Do you have English books here?
eigo no hon ga arimasu ka? 英語の本がありますか
How much is it?
ikura desu ka? いくらですか
Please write it down.
kaite kudasai 書いて下さい
I don't like the colour.
iro ga ki ni irimasen 色が気にいりません
Do you have a bigger one?
motto ōkii no wa arimasen ka? もっと大きいのはありませんか

Do you accept credit cards?
kurejitto kādo demo yoroshii desu ka? クレジットカードでもよろしいですか
I'll take (buy) it.
kore ni shimasu これにします
Please wrap it for me.
tsutsunde kudasai? つつんで下さい
Please send it to this address.
kono jūsho ni okutte kudasai この住所に送って下さい
May I have the receipt?
ryōshūsho o kudasai? 領収書を下さい
Is there a guarantee?
hoshō wa tsuite imasu ka? 保証はついていますか

Health

Medical care in Japan is quite advanced, but most Japanese doctors do not speak fluent English. Hotel doctors, or those at large university-affiliated hospitals, are most likely to speak English.

Virtually every medicine you are familiar with is available in Japan, but the brand names may be different. Chinese herbal medicines (*kanpōyaku*) and acupuncture (*hari*) are also available. Many prescribed medicines come in powdered form.

The fire department provides a free ambulance service for emergencies. Dial 119.

Where is the ....?	
.... *wa doko desu ka?*	...はどこですか
hospital	
byōin	病院
pharmacy	
yakkyoku	薬局
doctor	
isha	医者
dentist	
haisha	歯医者

I have	
watakushi wa	私は...
asthma	
zensoku desu	喘息です

backache	
senaka ga itamimasu	背中が痛みます
diarrhoea	
geri shite imasu	下痢しています
indigestion	
shōkafuryo o okoshimashita	消化不良を起こしました
a burn	
yakedo o oimashita	やけどをおいました
a cold	
kaze o hikimashita	風邪をひきました
an earache	
mimi ga itamimasu	耳が痛ます
a fever	
netsu ga arimasu	熱があります
a headache	
zutsū ga shimasu	頭痛がします
a pain here	
koko ni itami ga arimasu	ここに痛みがあります
a sore throat	
nodo ga itamimasu	のどが痛みます
stomachache	
i ga itamimasu	胃が痛みます
toothache	
ha ga itamimasu	歯が痛みます

Allergies

I'm allergic to	
.... *ni arerugī desu*	...にアレルギーです
antibiotics	
kōsei busshitsu	抗生物質

penicilin
penishirin ペニシリン
this
kore これ

At the Chemist

Do you have ....?
.... *o motte imasu ka?* ...を持っていますか
aspirin
asupirin アスピリン
band-aids
bansōkō 絆創膏
a bandage
hōtai 包帯
condom
kondōmu コンドーム
contraceptives
hiningu 避妊具
disinfectant
shōdoku yaku 消毒薬
insect repellent
bōchūzai 防虫剤
medicine
kusuri 薬
sanitary napkins
seiriyo napukin 生理用ナプキン
toothbrushes
haburashi 歯ブラシ
tranquilliser
chinseizai 鎮静剤
tweezers
kenuki けぬき

Please make this prescription.
kore o chōzai shite kudasai これを調剤して下さい

Parts of the Body

arm
ude 腕
body
karada 体
bone
hone 骨
breast
chibusa 乳房
chest
mune 胸
ear
mimi 耳
eye
me 目
face
kao 顔
finger
yubi 指
foot
ashi 足
head
atama 頭
heart
shinzō 心臓
leg
ashi 脚

mouth
kuchi 口
neck
kubi 首
nose
hana 鼻
rib
rokkotsu 肋骨
stomach
i 胃
throat
nodo 喉
tonsils
hentōsen 扁桃腺
tooth
ha 歯

Some Useful Words

ambulance
kyūkyūsha 救急車
blood
ketsueki 血液
burn (v)
yakedo 火傷
break
orimasu 折ります
breathe
iki o suru 息をする
cough (v)
seki ga demasu 咳が出ます
deaf
tsunbo 聾

dentist
haisha 歯医者
disease
byōki 病気
doctor
isha 医者
drink (v)
nomu 飲む
fever
netsu 熱
headache
zutsū 頭痛
hangover
futsukayoi 二日酔
infection
kanō 化膿
injection
chūsha 注射
itch
kaii かいい
patient
kanja 患者
poison
doku 毒
rash
hasshin 発疹
sprain (v)
kujiku 挫く
sunburn
hiyake 日焼
swell (v)
hareru 腫れる

test
kensa 検査
vomiting
modosu もどす

Some Useful Phrases

How do you feel?
kibun wa ikaga desu ka? 気分はいかがですか
I don't feel well.
kibun ga suguremasen 気分が優れません
Please call a doctor.
isha o yonde kudasai 医者を呼んで下さい
Please take us to a doctor.
isha ni tsurete itte kudasai 医者につれていって下さい
It hurts here.
koko ga itai n desu ここがいたいんです
I am nauseated.
hakike ga shimasu 吐き気がします
Don't do it!
shinaide kudasai! しないで下さい
Please call a police officer.
keisatsukan o yonde kudasai 警察官を呼んで下さい

Time & Dates

Once you learn how to count in Japanese, telling time is no harder than in English. All you have to do is say the word for the numeral and add a simple suffix. For example, to say 5 o'clock, you say the word for 5, *go*, add the suffix meaning 'o'clock', *ji*, and you've got *go-ji*.

To express a fraction of an hour, combine the word for the hour with the word for the minutes. For example, 5.15 would be 5 o'clock, *goji*, + 15 minutes, *jūgofun*, or *goji jū gofun*.

The half-hour is expressed by *han*; 5.30 would therefore be *gojihan*.

Learn the military or 24-hour time system before arriving in Japan, because this system is used for train and bus schedules – 1300 is 1 o'clock, 1800 is 6 o'clock, etc.

Telling Time

What time is it?
nanji desu ka? 何時ですか

It is .... o'clock.
.... *ji desu* ...時です

1
ichi 一
2
ni 二
3
san 三

4
yon 四
5
go 五
6
roku 六
7
shichi 七
8
hachi 八
9
ku 九
10
jū 十
11
jūichi 十一
12
jūni 十二

Minutes

1 minute
ippun 一分
5 minutes
gofun 五分
10 minutes
jūppun 十分
15 minutes
jūgofun 十五分
30 minutes
sanjūppun 三十分
45 minutes
yonjūgofun 四十五分

Now it's 2.15.
ima wa ni jūgofun desu 今は二時十五分です
It's half past one.
ichiji han desu 一時半です

Some Useful Words

afternoon
gogo 午後
day
nichi 日
day after tomorrow
asatte 明後日
day before yesterday
ototoi おととい
evening
ban 晩
half past
han 半
hour
jikan 時間
midnight
gozen reiji 午前零時
minute
fun 分
morning
asa 朝
night
yoru 夜
noon
shōgo 正午
now
ima 今

today	*kyō*	今日
tomorrow	*ashita*	明日
tonight	*konban*	今晩
yesterday	*kinō*	昨日

Weeks

last week	*senshū*	先週
next week	*raishū*	来週
this week	*konshū*	今週
one week	*isshūkan*	一週間
two weeks	*nishūkan*	二週間

Dates

Although traditional holidays still fall according to the lunar calendar they originated with, the Japanese today use the Gregorian (solar) calendar. Sometimes you may hear of a year referred to as the '63rd (or other) year of Showa'. The Japanese also date years according to the beginning of eras which start when a new emperor takes over. Thus, with accession of Emperor Akihito to the Chrysanthemum Throne, 1989 became the first year of Heisei.

In Japanese, dates are written with the year first, followed by the month and lastly the day.

Months

Months in Japanese are simply referred to as the '1-month' (January), the '2-month' (February), etc.

January	*ichigatsu*	一月
February	*nigatsu*	二月
March	*sangatsu*	三月
April	*shigatsu*	四月
May	*gogatsu*	五月
June	*rokugatsu*	六月
July	*shichigatsu*	七月
August	*hachigatsu*	八月
September	*kugatsu*	九月
October	*jūgatsu*	十月
November	*jūichigatsu*	十一月
December	*jūnigatsu*	十二月



Days

Today is ....
kyō wa .... desu 今日は…です

Sunday	
nichiyōbi	日曜日
Monday	
getsuyōbi	月曜日
Tuesday	
kayōbi	火曜日
Wednesday	
suiyōbi	水曜日
Thursday	
mokuyōbi	木曜日
Friday	
kinyōbi	金曜日
Saturday	
doyōbi	土曜日
holiday	
kyūjitsu	休日

Some Useful Phrases

What day is today?	
kyō wa nanyōbi desu ka?	今日は何曜日ですか
What's today's date?	
kyō wa nannichi desu ka?	今日は何日ですか
What time is it?	
nanji desu ka?	何時ですか
When will you come back?	
itsu kaerimasu ka?	いつ帰りますか

Festivals

Most of Japan's festivals began as local celebrations by farmers wanting to express their awe of nature or their joy over completed harvests. Because of the lack of communication in pre-modern Japan most festivals retained their local nature and never became nation-wide celebrations. Around the second week in August the *bon* festival features traditional dancing and celebrants welcome and send off the souls of their ancestors.

festival day	
saijitsu	祭日
eve of festival	
yoimatsuri	宵祭
festival parade	
shinko	しんこ
palanquins	
mikoshi	神輿
paper lanterns	
chōchin	提燈

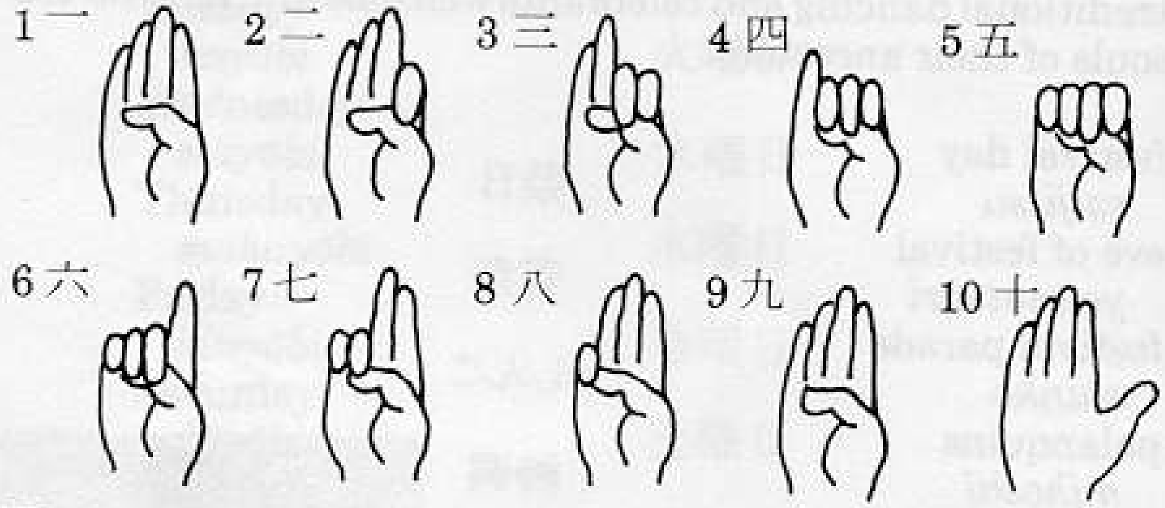


Seasons

spring	
haru	春
summer	
natsu	夏
autumn	
aki	秋
winter	
fuyu	冬

Numbers

Arabic numerals are usually used in Japan but sometimes, especially on menus, you will find the following Chinese characters (*kanji*) used:



The Japanese have a commonly used system of hand gestures for counting. Learn these gestures for the cardinal numbers and you can communicate without words.

Japanese has two counting systems, a native Japanese system, which only goes as high as '10', and a system borrowed from Chinese. This is not as confusing as it might sound at first, the rules concerning when to use the separate systems being very clear. As a general rule, Chinese numerals combine with 'counters' (see page 111), while Japanese numerals can be used in isolation when you don't know the 'counter' for an object:

There are two or three different ways to say the cardinal Chinese numbers, 4, 7, and 9. In the following table, the recommended spoken version is listed first.

Number	Chinese	Japanese
1	*ichi* 一	*hitotsu* 一つ
2	*ni* 二	*futatsu* 二つ
3	*san* 三	*mittsu* 三つ
4	*yon/shi* 四	*yottsu* 四つ
5	*go* 五	*itsutsu* 五つ
6	*roku* 六	*muttsu* 六つ
7	*nana/shichi* 七	*nanatsu* 七つ
8	*hachi* 八	*yattsu* 八つ
9	*kyū/ku* 九	*kokonotsu* 九つ
10	*jū* 十	*tō* 十

Notice that numbers above 10 are generally made by a combination of the numbers from one to 10. To say 16 for example, you take the word for 10 (*jū*) and combine it with 6 (*roku*) to make 16 or *jūroku*. There are special words for 100 *hyaku*, 1000 *sen*, and 10,000 *man*. Since one million is 100 x 10,000, it becomes *hyakuman*.

Number		
11	*jūichi*	十一
12	*jūni*	十二
13	*jūsan*	十三
14	*jūyon*	十四
15	*jūgo*	十五
16	*jūroku*	十六
17	*jūshichi*	十七
18	*jūhachi*	十八
19	*jūku*	十九
20	*nijū*	二十
30	*sanjū*	三十
40	*yonjū*	四十

50	*gojū*	五十
60	*rokujū*	六十
70	*shichijū*	七十
80	*hachijū*	八十
90	*kujū*	九十
100	*hyaku*	百
125	*hyaku nijūgo*	百二十五
200	*nihyaku*	二百
300	*sanbyaku*	三百
400	*yonbyaku*	四百
500	*gohyaku*	五百
600	*ropphyaku*	六百
700	*nanahyaku*	七百
800	*happyaku*	八百
900	*kyūhyaku*	九百
1000	*sen*	千
1367	*sensanbyaku rokujūshichi*	千三百六十七
2000	*nisen*	二千
3000	*sanzen*	三千
7000	*nanasen*	七千
10,000	*man* or *ichiman*	一万
30,000	*sanman*	三万
100,000	*jūman*	十万
1,000,000	*hyakuman*	百万

Ordinals

Ordinals are formed by adding *ban* to a number:

first	*ichiban*	一番
second	*niban*	二番
third	*sanban*	三番

Others

once	*ichido*	一度
twice	*nido*	二度
three times	*sando*	三度

Counters

Most things you want to count in Japanese will require a counter after the number. In most cases the Chinese-derived numerals are used with the counters. Thus 'three books' becomes *san-satsu*.

books	*satsu*	冊
buildings	*ken*	けん
chopsticks	*zen*	ぜん
cups	*hai*	はい
fish	*hiki*	ひき
houses	*ken*	けん
knives	*chō*	ちょう
letters	*tsū*	通
pencils	*hon*	本
people	*nin*	にん
shoes	*soku*	そく
vehicles	*dai*	だい
other items	*ko*	こ



Money

Japanese currency comes in yen and only yen; there is no Japanese equivalent to the distinction between dollars and cents. Coins are 10-yen coins, 100-yen coins, etc.

satsu means 'bill' and *dama* is a coin

5 yen coin	*go-en dama*	五円だま
10 yen coin	*jū-en dama*	十円だま
50 yen coin	*gojū-en dama*	五十円だま
100 yen coin	*hyaku-en dama*	百円だま
500 yen coin	*gohyaku-en dama*	五百円だま
1000 yen bill	*sen-en satsu*	千円札
5000 yen bill	*gosen-en satsu*	五千円札
10,000 yen bill	*ichiman-en satsu*	一万円札

Some Useful Phrases

How many?	*ikutsu desu ka?*	いくつですか
one dozen	*ichi-dāsu*	ーダース
a lot	*takusan*	沢山
too much	*sugimasu*	すぎます
enough	*jūbun desu*	充分です

Measurements

centimetre	*senchi*	センチ
litre	*rittoru*	リットル
metre	*mētoru*	メートル
millimetre	*miri*	ミリ
pound	*pondo*	ポンド
ounce	*onsu*	オンス

Vocabulary

A

accident – *jiko*	事故
address – *jūsho*	住所
aeroplane – *hikōki*	飛行機
afternoon – *gogo*	午後
age – *nenrei*	年齢
agriculture – *nōgyō*	農業
airmail – *kōkūbin*	航空便
all – *zenbu*	全部
antibiotics – *taikinsei yakuzai*	抗生物質
antique – *kottōhin*	骨董品
appendix – *mōchō*	盲腸
apple – *ringo*	りんご
architect – *kenchiku*	建築家
art – *geijutsu*	芸術
ashtray – *haizara*	灰皿
Asia – *ajia*	アジア

B

baby – *nyūji*	乳児
bad – *warui*	悪い
baggage – *nimotsu*	荷物
bank – *ginkō*	銀行
barber – *tokoya*	床屋
bath – *furo*	風呂
bathroom – *otearai*	お手洗
beach – *hama*	浜

beans – *sayaingen* 莢いんげん
beautiful – *utsukushii* 美しい
bed – *beddo* ベッド
beef – *gyūniku* 牛肉
beer – *bīru* ビール
better – *motto yoi* もっとよい
bicycle – *jitensha* 自転車
big – *okii* 大きい
bill – *kanjō* 勘定
bird – *kotori* 小鳥
birthday – *tanjōbi* 誕生日
blanket – *mōfu* 毛布
bleed – *shukketsu suru* 出血する
boat – *fune* 船
body – *karada* 体
book – *hon* 本
bookshop – *honya* 本屋
botanical garden – *shokubotsuen* 植物園
bottle – *bin* びん
bowl – *bōru* ボール
boy – *otoko no ko* 男の子
bread – *pan* パン
breakfast – *chohoku* 朝食
bridge – *hashi* 橋
broken – *dakkyū shita* 脱臼した
building – *tatemono* 建物
bus – *basu* バス
business – *shōgyō* 商業
button – *botan* ボタン
butter – *batā* バター
buy (v) – *kau* 買う

C

cake – *kēki* ケーキ
calculator – *keisanki* 計算機
car – *kuruma* 車
carpet – *kāpetto* カーペット
castle – *shiro* 城
cave – *iwaya* 岩屋
change (money) – *kozeni* 小銭
cheap – *yasui* 安い
cheese – *chīzu* チーズ
chemist (drugstore) – *yakkyoku* 薬局
chicken – *niwatori* にわとり
child – *ko* 子
chopsticks – *hashi* 箸
church – *kyōkai* 教会
cigarettes – *tabako* タバコ
city – *machi* 町
closed – *heiten* 閉店
coffee – *kōhī* コーヒー
cold – *samui* 寒い
colour – *iro* 色
come (v) – *kuru* 来る
constipated – *benpishiteiru* 便秘している
country (nation) – *kuni* 国
crab – *kani* かに
cup – *koppu* コップ

D

dangerous – *abunai* 危ない
dark – *kurai* 暗い
decaffeinated – *kafein nuki* カフェイン抜き

delicious - *oishii* おいしい
deodorant - *deodoranto* デオドラント
dessert - *desāto* デザート
diarrhoea - *geri* 下痢
dictionary - *jisho* 辞書
difficult - *muzukashii* 難しい
dining car - *shokudosha* 食堂車
dinner - *yūshoku* 夕食
doctor - *isha* 医者
dormitory - *kishukusha* 寄宿舎
dozen - *dāsu* ダース
duck - *ahiru* あひる

E

early - *hayai* 早い
east - *higashi* 東
easy - *yasashii* やさしい
eat (v) - *taberu* 食べる
egg - *tamago* たまご
embassy - *taishikan* 大使館
empty - *kara* 空
engineer - *gishi* 技師
enough - *jubun* 充分
envelope - *fūtō* 封筒
evening - *ban* 晩
exit - *deguchi* 出口
expensive - *takai* 高い

F

face - *kao* 顔
faint - *ki o ushinau* 気をうしなう

far - *tōi* 遠い
ferry - *ferī* フェリー
fever - *netsu* 熱
film (photo) - *firumu* フイルム
film (movie) - *eiga* 映画
find - *mitsukeru* 見つける
fish - *sakana* 魚
flight - *bin* 便
'flu - *infuruenza* インフルエンザ
fork - *fōku* フォーク
full - *ippai* 一杯
furniture - *kagu* 家具

G

garden - *niwa* 庭
girl - *onna no ko* 女の子
glasses - *megane* 眼鏡
go - *iku* 行く
good - *yoi* 良い
goodbye - *sayōnara* さようなら
gram - *guramu* グラム
gynaecologist - *fujinkai* 婦人科医

H

hairdresser - *rihatsushitsu* 理髪室
ham - *hamu* ハム
handicrafts - *shukōgeihin* 手工芸品
hand-made - *tezukuri no* 手作りの
head - *atama* 頭
heat - *atsusa* 暑さ
heavy - *omoi* 重い
help (v) - *tetsudau* 手伝う

here – *koko* ここ
hill – *oka* 丘
hitchhiking – *hitchi haiku* ヒッチハイク
honey – *hachimitsu* 蜂蜜
hospital – *byōin* 病院
hot – *atsui* 暑い
hotel – *hoteru* ホテル
hour – *jikan* 時間
how – *dō* どう

I
ice cream – *aisū kuriimu* アイスクリーム
immediately – *sugu* すぐ
indigestion – *shōkafuryō* 消化不良
information desk – *annai gakari* 案内係
injection – *chūsha* 注射
interesting – *omoshiroi* 面白い
international call – *kokusai tsūwa* 国際通話
interpreter – *tsūyaku* 通訳
island – *shima* 島
ivory – *zōge* 象牙

J
jade – *hisui* 翡翠
Japanese – *nihongo* 日本語
Japanese garden – *nihon teien* 日本庭園
jeans – *jīpan* ジーパン
jewellery – *hōseki* 宝石
journalist – *jānaristo* ジャーナリスト

K
key – *kagi* 鍵
knife – *naifu* ナイフ

L
lake – *mizuumi* 湖
late – *osoi* 遅い
lawyer – *bengoshi* 弁護士
leather – *kawa* 皮
left – *hidari* 左
lens – *lenzu* レンズ
letter – *tegami* 手紙
library – *toshokan* 図書館
light (weight) – *karui* 軽い
look – *miru* 見る
love – *ai* 愛
luggage – *tenimotsu* 手荷物
lunch – *chūshoku* 昼食

M
map – *chizu* 地図
marry – *kekkon suru* 結婚する
matches – *matchi* マッチ
milk – *miruku* ミルク
minute – *fun* 分
money – *okane* お金
month – *tsuki* 月
morning – *asa* 朝
motor bike – *mota baiku* モーターバイク
music – *ongaku* 音楽
museum – *hakubutsukan* 博物館
mutton – *maton* マトン

N

name – *namae* 名前
near – *chikai* 近い
needle – *hari* 針
new – *atarashii* 新しい
noisy – *urusai* うるさい
noodles – *soba/udon* そばうどん
north – *kita* 北
now – *ima* 今
number – *bangō* 番号

O

old – *furui* 古い
open (v) – *akimasu* 開きます
operation – *shujutsu* 手術
optician – *meganeya* 眼鏡屋
or – *aruiwaka* あるいはか
orange – *orenji* オレンジ
other – *hoka* 他

P

pagoda – *tō* 塔
pain – *itami* いたみ
paintings – *kaiga* 絵画
parcel – *kozutsumi* 小包
park – *kōen* 公園
passport – *pasupōto* パスポート
peach – *momo* もも
pepper – *koshō* 胡椒
persimmon – *kaki* かき
plate – *sara* 皿
platform – *purattohōmu* プラットホーム

police – *keisatsu* 警察
porcelain – *jiki* 磁器
pork – *butaniku* 豚肉
post office – *yūbinkyoku* 郵便局
postcards – *hagaki* 葉書
poste restante – *kyokudome yūbin* 局留郵便
prescription – *shohōsen* 処方箋
province – *ken* 県

Q

quick – *hayai* 速い
quiet – *shizuka na* 静かな

R

railway – *tetsudō* 鉄道
rain – *ame* 雨
razor – *kamisori* かみそり
real – *hontō* 本当
receipt – *ryōshūsho* 領収書
record – *rekōdo* レコード
rent (v) – *kariru* 借る
repair – *naosu* 直す
rest – *yasumu* 休む
restaurant – *restoran* or *shokudō* レストラン 食堂
return – *kaeru* 帰る
rice (cooked) – *gohan* ごはん
right (side) – *migi* 右
river – *kawa* 川
road – *michi* 道
room – *heya* 部屋

S

salt – *shio* 塩
scenery – *keshiki* 景色
seconds (time) – *niban* 二番
shampoo – *shanpū* シャンプー
shoe laces – *kutsu himo* 靴ひも
shop – *mise* 店
shopping – *shoppingu* ショッピング
shower – *shawa* シャワー
shut – *shimaru* 締る
signature – *shomei* 署名
silk – *kinu* 絹
sleep (v) – *nemuru* 眠る
slowly – *yukkuri* ゆっくり
small – *chiisai* 小さい
smoke (v) – *tabako o sū* タバコを吸う
snack – *sunakku* スナック
snow (v) – *yuki ga furu* 雪が降る
soap – *sekken* せっけん
soup – *sūpu* スープ
south – *minami* 南
soya sauce – *shōyu* しょう油
speak (v) – *hanasu* 話す
spoon – *supūn* スプーン
stale – *shinsen de nai* 新鮮でない
stamps – *kitte* 切手
stomach – *i* 胃
stop (v) – *tomaru* 止まる
street – *tōri* 通り
student – *gakusei* 学生
sugar – *satō* 砂糖

sweet – *amai* 甘い
swim (v) – *oyogu* 泳ぐ

T

table – *tēburu* テーブル
teacher – *sensei* 先生
telegram – *denpō* 電報
telephone – *denwa* 電話
tell – *oshieru* 教える
temple – *tera* 寺
thanks – *arigatō gozaimasu* ありがとうございます
theatre – *gekijo* 劇場
there – *soko* そこ
thread – *ito* 糸
throat – *nodo* 喉
tickets – *kippu* 切符
toast – *tōsuto* トースト
today – *kyō* 今日
toilet – *benjo* 便所
tomorrow – *ashita/asu* 明日
tooth – *ha* 歯
toothbrush – *haburashi* 歯ブラシ
toothpick – *tomayōji* 爪楊子
toy – *omocha* おもちゃ
trade – *bōeki* 貿易
train – *densha* 電車
travel – *ryoko suru* 旅行する

U

ulcer – *kaiyō* 潰瘍
umbrella – *kasa* 傘

underground (subway) – *chikatetsu*	地下鉄
understand – *wakaru*	わかる
university – *daigaku*	大学
upstairs – *kaijō*	階上

V

vaginal infection – *chitsuen*	膣炎
vegetables – *yasai*	野菜
vegetarian – *saishokushugi sha*	菜食主義者
venereal disease – *seibyō*	性病
village – *mura*	村
vinegar – *su*	酢
vomit – *modosu*	もどす

W

wage – *kyūryō*	給料
wait – *matsu*	待つ
waiter – *ueitā*	ウェイター
waitress – *ueitoresu*	ウエイトレス
want (v) – *hossuru*	欲する
watermelon – *suika*	西瓜
weather – *tenki*	天気
week – *shū*	週
west – *nishi*	西
what – *nani*	何
when – *itsu*	いつ
where – *doko*	どこ
which – *dore dochira*	どれ／どちら
who – *dare*	誰
why – *dōshite*	どうして

wine – *uain*	ワイン
woman – *josē*	女性
writing paper – *binsen*	便箋

Y

year – *toshi*	年
yesterday – *kinō*	昨日
yoghurt – *yōgurutu*	ヨーグルト
young – *wakai*	若い

Z

zen temple – *zendera*	禅寺
zoo – *dōbutsuen*	動物園
zoom lens – *zūmu renzu*	ズームレンズ